

Groundwater Management Plan Committee

July 12, 2018

12pm – 2pm at Festival Hall Rm 1

Committee Members in attendance:

Joe Melling
Paul Nelson

Paul Bittmenn

Rob Dotson

Paul Monroe

Committee Members not in attendance:

Spencer Jones
Paul Cozzens

Brent Hunter

Reed Erickson

Ramon Prestwich

Others in attendance:

Jessica Staheli

Meeting called to order at 12:26pm (By Joe Melling)

1. Review Minutes:

Motion to approve minutes from May and June Meetings by Dotson. Second by Bittmenn. Motion unanimous at 12:27pm.

2. Review Utah Division of Water Rights Draft Policy:

The committee discussed the meeting with the State Engineer (SE). They discussed the policy changes that the SE proposed. Dotson's understanding was that the SE's office would continue to change the HWY 56 boundary, but they would wait to change the Enoch Restricted Area Boundary.

Monroe said that SE told him that he would be retiring next year in November of 2019. Dotson said that The Committee needs to try to accomplish the approval of the plan before a new SE is put into place. He said they should create some deadlines.

The committee discussed different recharge issues along with the State Engineer's time table for several minutes. (12:39pm)

Bittmenn wondered what the shortlist items are that need to be completed for the plan. Monroe said the committee needs to look at the section about recording systems

and how to compile data. Dotson thought that the Water Commissioner should have a lot of information, and the Committee should be able to receive information from her or the Surface Water Commissioner. The Committee needs to be able to put all the data into one spot. The committee says that they should task Dan Jessen to gather all the information. The Committee discussed hiring Jessen to gather this information. Bittmenn said they should get all the County Commissioners on board to task him with this.

Melling said the committee needs to have a goal of completing the document by spring. (12:44pm). Monroe said that the SE will hold multiple public meetings before approval of the plan. The committee discussed goal deadlines to finish the draft and send to the SE. The Committee wants to give the SE enough time to review the draft and approve it.

Melling said there needs to be more data gathered to show what areas need to gain more attention on recharge. The committee wants to request the Division of Water Rights to work with USGS to compile the data. Nelson said that Sam Bauer gathers this type of data in the spring. Monroe said that there is a policy now that the State must have a partner to monitor wells. Monroe wondered if the USGS could monitor all our wells (Cedar, Enoch, and CICWCD) to gather this information through SCADA. The committee discussed data options for several minutes. The committee asked Monroe to reach out to USGS and the Water Commissioners. (1:00pm) Dotson will reach out to the County Commissioners and Dan Jessen. Dotson and Monroe are going to meet and decide the exact information The Committee needs before they reach out to these people. Dotson said that gathering this data will help the State Engineer see that the committee is really searching for the best outcomes.

3. Recommendations to be sent to the State Engineer on Policy Changes

Monroe showed The Committee the letter he created about the proposed policy changes to send to the State Engineer. The Committee discussed the HWY 56 boundary change and how it might impact Cedar City. The Committee then discussed the Enoch Restricted boundary. Bittmenn said there is always a financial aspect, but we

are trying to manage water. However, the committee decided that the statement was true, but they do need to look at the financial side as well.

The committee discussed item 3B on the letter, "The State Engineer to should require the applicant show the last 5 year running average flow of the surface source." The Committee didn't know if the State Engineer would approve it, but they thought it was a good statement to include in the letter.

Monroe said there was some confusion with the State Engineer about Recharge and Recovery water rights. The State Engineer said that if you put the water in the ground, you should be able to recover it. However, that is contradictory to the agreement the CICWCD had with the Quichipa Recharge Project. The Committee discussed recharge and recovery water rights.

Monroe talked about the Kanarraville Irrigation Company and the approval it received to change surface water rights to groundwater. The Committee discussed monitoring groundwater, and how people should only be able to use the water when it is available. (1:28pm)

Dotson motioned to send the letter. Bittmenn second. (1:30pm).

4. Agricultural Incentive Conservation Update

Monroe said that there are 8 applicants for the Agricultural Incentive Grant Program. One system has been installed already. The District's goal is to gain 20 applicants before the Legislative Session. It is about a 30% savings to replace a wheel-line with a pivot. Monroe is going to Nevada with Tyce Palmer and Jake Benson to talk to the inventor of the "double drop" system. They will discuss him building systems for the agricultural producers in Cedar Valley. Melling wants Monroe to ask him about using aluminum instead of galvanized steel.

Joe Melling closed the meeting. *(Meeting adjourned at 1:40pm)*

Next Meeting Date:

Thursday, August 9th @ 12pm

Festival Hall

105 N 100 E, Cedar City, UT 84720